

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 287599

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT LONDON 19655 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 01 DEC 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T LONDON 19655

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: SALT CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 285699; LONDON 19334

1. IN CONVERSATION AT FCO WITH ACDA COUNSELOR YARMOLINSKY, PATRICK MOBERLY RAISED DECEMBER 7 QUADRIPARTITE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF SALT. MOBERLY OBSERVED HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF SECRETARY VANCE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL ON DECEMBER 7 CURRENT STATE OF SALT III PRINCIPLES. ALTHOUGH ALLIES HAD BEEN KEPT INFORMED ON OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE NEGOTIATION, PRINCIPLES REMAINED A FUZZY AREA, AND ONE

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WHICH HAD IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EUROPEANS. HAD THERE, FOR INSTANCE, BEEN ANY PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING US-USSR JOINT TEXT OF PRINCIPLES OR WERE THE TWO SIDES TOO FAR APART FOR THAT? WOULD END PRODUCT BE ESSENTIALLY TWO UNILATERAL STATEMENTS GLUED TOGETHER AND CALLED PRINCIPLES FOR SALT III, OR SO GENERAL AS TO MAKE LITTLE OR NO DIFFERENCE ON SHAPE OF NEXT NEGOTIATION. ADMIT-

TING THAT HE WAS IN WORST CASE SCENARIO COUNTRY, MOBERLY SAID THAT US AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE US FBS AND FRENCH AND BRITISH FORCES IN PRINCIPLES WITHOUT COMPARABLE SOVIET CONCESSION WOULD SHATTER ALLIED COHESION. HE NOTED SUCH AN AWFUL TURN OF EVENTS WAS OF COURSE HIGHLY UNLIKELY BUT SUGGESTED BRIEFING BY SECRETARY VANCE WOULD DO MUCH TO REDUCE EUROPEAN ANXIETY.

2. AS WILBERFORCE HAD DONE ON MONDAY, MOBERLY MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF TRILATERAL TALKS IF FRENCH DECIDE NOT TO PARTICIPATE. HE SAID HMG WAS CONSIDERING THAT EVENTUALITY BUT OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT BE FACED WITH DECISION UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 7.

3. COMMENT. BRITISH REMAIN INTENSELY INTERESTED IN SMALLEST DETAILS OF SALT NEGOTIATION, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH COULD AFFECT THEM. THUS, FROM HMG POINT OF VIEW, THERE CANNOT BE TOO MUCH US-UK CONSULTATION ON THIS SUBJECT. MOREOVER, BRITISH CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US THEY SHOULD REMAIN CLEARLY FIRST AMONG MAJOR EUROPEAN EQUALS IN RECEIVING SPECIFIC AND FREQUENT BILATERAL SALT BRIEFINGS. THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD SO FAR. BUT WE DO THINK WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH FRG DO NOT
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CREEP AHEAD OF THOSE WITH UK AND WE NOTE PAUL WARNKE'S AGREEMENT TO STOP IN BONN ON DECEMBER 2. GOING ON PAST RECORD, HMG WILL NO DOUBT HEAR ACCOUNT OF THOSE TALKS FROM GERMANS. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF BRITISH ON US-FRG DECEMBER 2 BILATERAL WHICH WILL INEVITABLY BE PART OF BACKDROP TO DECEMBER 7 MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION.

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO PARIS AND BONN.

BREWSTER UNQUOTE VANCE

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